



Office of Environmental Health E-Newsletter

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May 2005

School Sanitation Rulemaking

On April 15, 2005 ADHS posted a new draft of the school sanitation rules onto the ADHS website. This draft was revised from the January 2005 version, based on input from interested persons.

In the revised rulemaking, ADHS added a new section regarding animals in schools. Because the new Animal Standards section was added since the January 2005 version was available for comment, ADHS has opened another informal public comment period.

Letters were sent to schools informing them of the new draft, and email messages were sent to other interested parties. The revised draft rules and a glossary containing rules and statutes cited in the draft can be viewed at:

www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/draft.htm

If you would like to comment on the draft rules or would like to receive notification of any

future changes, please submit remarks along with your name, address, telephone number, and email address via email to smejkar@azdhs.gov by May 6, 2005 or by U.S. Mail, post marked by May 6th, to Ruthann Smejkal, Rules Analyst, at 1740 W. Adams, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

Interested persons can track the rules through the rulemaking process at: www.azdhs.gov/diro/admin_rules/index.htm.

Yuma Agroterrorism Workshop

The Yuma County Bioterrorism Program will be presenting an Agroterrorism Workshop in Yuma, Arizona on May 12, 2005 from 8 AM to 12 Noon.

The workshop will address the importance of taking immediate steps to reduce the risk of intentional contamination of agricultural products at the farm level.

Among the keynote speakers, Dr. Jerry Gillespie from the Western Institute on Food

Safety and Food Security at the University of California, Davis will explain the risks and strategies for protection.

For more information, please contact Claudia Ramirez at (928) 317-4624 or Claudia.Ramirez@co.yuma.az.us. The workshop brochure can be viewed at:

www.co.yuma.az.us/health/PDF/Agro-TerrorismWorkshop.pdf

Please register by May 6th.

Pinal County Completes FDA Program Standards Audit

Congratulations to Pinal County Division of Environmental Health for successfully completing confirming audits for their selected Program Standards. The audit, performed by ADHS, confirmed that Pinal County met Standards 2, 7 and 9.

Standard 2 involves training of regulatory staff; Standard 7 focuses on consumer and industry interaction and educational outreach activities; and, Standard 9 confirms the program's completion of their self-assessment and baseline survey. Good work Pinal County!

Pima and Yavapai Counties Announce New Program Managers

Sharon Browning was selected as the new Program Manager for the Division of Consumer Health and Food Safety in the Pima County Health Department.

Sharon has a degree in Biochemistry and has moved up the ranks in Pima County since her first assignment in 1995.

John Alden was recently selected the Unit Manager for Environmental Health with Yavapai County Community Health Services.

John has over 25 years of public health experience and holds a degree from National University. He has been with Yavapai County since 2000 after he retired from the U.S. Navy.

Congratulations to Sharon and John on their new appointments. We all look forward to working with them in their new capacity.

FDA Food Code Course Set for May 24 - 26, 2005

There was a huge response for registration for the upcoming three-day FDA *Food Code Course*, scheduled for May 24 - 26 in Phoenix. We have been able to accommodate 58 participants. Participants include representatives from 14

of the 15 Arizona counties, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Indian Health Services, National Park Service, private consultants, Arizona State University, and The University of Arizona.

ADHS Submits Next Year's Training Requests

Each year, ADHS submits a training request to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the following year's calendar (October 2005 - September 2006). The request is based on input received from the 15 Arizona counties. Considering last year's training program was *Plan Review for Food Establishments* and this year's is the *Food Code*, these courses were not considered for next year.

In priority ranking, these are the course topics submitted:

Temporary Food Establishments (two days); *Food Borne Outbreak Investigations* (three days); and *Managing Retail Food Safety* (three days).

Hopefully, we'll be successful in securing a course for Arizona for next year. We should know by the end of this year.

More to follow as we get additional information.

County Food Safety Program Audits Completed

ADHS has completed the on-site audit process for each of the 15 Arizona county food safety programs. The audits were designed to focus on the Healthy Arizona 2010 initiative to reduce the prevalence of food borne illness risk factors in restaurants and retail food establishments in Arizona by 25% by 2010.

A report of the findings will be prepared over the summer and it will be distributed to each county environmental health director/manager.

Arizona Sanitarian Registration Renewal

For next year's renewal process, you will be required to earn 12 contact hours of continuing education this year. There are no carryover provisions, so the contact hours you earn this year (2005) can only be used for next year's (2006) renewal.

For additional information, please contact the Arizona Sanitarian Council Chair, Don Herrington, at (602) 364-3142 or herrind@azdhs.gov.

Newsletter comments or questions can be directed to Bob Gomez at (602) 364-3140 or gomezr@azdhs.gov.